Chinese exporters, the Govt, of India, after due investigations, had imposed anti-dumping duty on import of met coke from China. In response the Chinese authorities designated 7 Chinese companies to export coke to India, a measure taken by the Chinese authorities to canalise the export of the item to India aimed to overcome the fierce competition amongst Chinese producers and exporters which had led the dumping in India, the measure taken by the Chinese Govt. also ensures sufficient competition amongst them with a view to keep the price of met coke not higher than the international price.

(c) and (d) Various measures have been taken to augment the production of coking coal/superior grades of coal by re-organising existing mines and development of new mines. Modification of existing washeries as well as construction of new washeries to increase the existing washery capacity is also being done. Efforts are also being made for enhancing the underground production. Steps are being taken to mechanically beneficiate non-coking coal by washing.

Import of Commercial Crop Produce

5222. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of commercial crop produce like cotton, rubber, coffee, coconut under OGL have adversely affected the farming community in the country;

(b) if so, the details of import of sugar, wheat, cotton, rubber, coconut and coffee allowed during 1999-2000 under OGL and extent of adverse effect on Indian farming;

(c) the details of representation received from the organizations representing farming community; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed to protect the interest of domestic farmers and the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Import of cotton and sugar was made free prior to 31.03.96. Import of coffee and coconut, except desiccated coconut (Exim Code 080111 00), is presently restricted. Import of rubber is allowed against surrender of Special Import Licence (SIL). Import of these items has been free from SAARC countries since 01.08.98.

The details of imports of sugar, wheat, natural rubber and raw cotton for the period April to November,' 99 are as follows:

Commodity	Quantity (in tones)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
Wheat	685317	41092.58
Sugar	884024	88129.41
Natural rubber	13149	4754.9
Cotton raw and waste	120858	66876.53

A. The figures provided above are provisional.

B. Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Representations have been received from various organizations representing farming community for providing adequate protection to domestic producers against threat of import.

However all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Custom duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic farmers. Further, the imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.

India's tariff bindings at W.T.O for most of the agricultural items are fairly high and effective rates customs duties can be raised to those levels, in case there is any evidence of substantial increase in imports. Import duty on wheat has been increased to 50%, that of sugar upto 60% and of coffee upto 35% in the recent past to provide adequate protection to the domestic farmers.

In case of excessive imports or dumping, measures such as Anti-dumping action, imposition of Countervailing duties and Safeguard action can be resorted to provide protection to the domestic producers.

Restructuring the Present administrative set-up

5223. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken appropriate steps to amalgamate and restructure the present administrative set-up of authorities dealing with Patents and Trade Mark, Intellectual Property Rights related issues in the context of globalisation policies and update the laws systems compatible with international standards;